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HR 35/HCR 32
COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
TO ERADICATE FRUIT FLIES IN HAWAII

Statement for
House Committee on
Agriculture
Public Hearing - February 3, 1988

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HR 35 recognizes the fruit industry in Hawaii, the adverse impacts of fruit flies to that industry, and commends the United States Department of Agriculture on their efforts to eradicate fruit flies in Hawaii.

Our comments on this resolution do not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

As appropriately noted in the "where as" clauses of HR 35, the fruit fly problem is an ongoing concern of the agricultural industry in Hawaii. As such, it is also a major concern of the state as a whole and has been an area of intense research by the University of Hawaii. The recent efforts of the USDA with regard to the development of the fruit fly sterilization facility at Waimanalo represents one of many efforts by the USDA and other researchers to develop methods to control fruit flies in Hawaii. It should be recognized that no one method is likely to be 100% successful and that continuing research into various eradication techniques coupled with objective monitoring of the results of the eradication efforts must be supported to develop environmentally responsible and effective eradication methods.

We suggest that HR 35 be amended to direct the commendation of the USDA to their specific efforts to develop biologically and environmentally acceptable methodologies, without recourse to aerial applications of pesticides for fruit fly control, such as the new fruit fly sterilization facility at Waimanalo. Such a specific commendation would reinforce the need for environmentally responsible methodologies in contrast to the previously proposed aerial pesticide application technique which posed the threat of serious, unwarranted environmental damage.

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